CLAIMS

1. A method of transmitting an image over a compressed video transport, as part of an image stream, comprising:

determining at least one quality for at least a part of an image based on a rate of change of said part; and

transmitting said image part at said quality using said transport.

2. A method according to claim 1, comprising:

generating and transmitting a data block of image enhancement data if said image part did not change in a time period.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said generating comprises generating without decoding previously used DCT coefficients.

4. A method according to claim 2, wherein said image part is a static image that does not change in at least 30 frames.

5. A method according to claim 2, wherein said image part is a static image that does not change in at least 300 frames.

6. A method according to claim 2, wherein said image part is a static image that does not change in at least 5 seconds.

7. A method according to claim 2, wherein said image part is a static image that does not change in at least 25 seconds.

8. A method according to claim 2, comprising not transmitting image enhancement data once a target image quality is reached for said image part.

9. A method according to claim 2, comprising repeating said generating and said transmitting a maximum of a predetermined number of times for said image part.

10. A method according to claim 2, wherein said transport comprises an MPEG-type transport.

11. A method according to claim 10, comprising decoding said image using a standard MPEG decoder, to have a temporally progressive quality of said image part.

12. A method according to claim 2, comprising calculating a synchronisation frame for said transport by mapping a representation of said image as transmitted to a representation of said image as it should be in a synchronisation frame.

13. A method according to claim 2, comprising associating with said image part an indication of a suitable target quality for said image part.

14. A method according to claim 2, comprising associating with said image part an indication of a suitable initial quality for said image part.

15. A method according to claim 2, comprising associating with said image part an indication of an expected rate of change of said part.

16. A method according to claim 15, comprising generating said indication by an image generator that generates said image.

17. A method according to claim 15, comprising generating said indication by an image encoder that encodes said image.

18. A method according to claim 15, comprising generating said indication by analysing a past profile of changes of said part.

19. A method of calculating a DCT coefficient change value set for updating image values of a previously transmitted portion of an image without motion estimation, comprising:

comparing DCT coefficients that represent said image with at least an approximation of DCT coefficients that represent the transmitted image, to generate an indication of a difference between said coefficients; and

calculating an update coefficient set from said indication of a difference.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein comparing comprises subtracting.

21. A method according to claim 19, wherein calculating comprises quantizing said difference.

22. A method according to claim 19, wherein said approximation comprises a composite of previously transmitted DCT coefficients and updates.

23. A method according to claim 19, wherein said approximation comprises an AAN-type approximation, in which at least some of multiplication steps required to calculate DCT coefficients are performed as scaling multiplications.

24. A method according to claim 23, wherein said calculating comprises quantizing as part of said scaling multiplication.

25. A method of calculating a synchronisation frame, comprising:

providing a DCT coefficient set that represents a currently displayed image;

mapping said coefficients to a set of quantized coefficients that use a synchronisation frame type quantization.

26. A method according to claim 25, wherein mapping comprises mapping using a table.

27. A method of setting an initial quality of an image part of a compressed video stream, comprising:

selectively determining for at least a part of an image an expected change rate;

compressing said image part at a compression quality different than that of other parts of said stream responsive to said expected change rate.

28. A method according to claim 27, wherein said compression comprises quantizing a set of transform coefficients.

29. A method according to claim 27, wherein said compression comprises compressing responsive to an indication of a desired quality of said image part.

30. A method according to claim 28, wherein said determining comprises determining based on a provided indication.

31. A method according to claim 28, wherein said determining comprises determining based on an analysis of historical changes in said part.

32. A method according to claim 28, wherein said image part is static.

33. A method according to claim 28, wherein said image part is fast varying and is assigned a lower quality than average.

34. A method according to claim 28, wherein said image part is semi-static and is a higher quality than average.

35. A method of transmitting an image over a compressed video transport, as part of an image stream, comprising:

transmitting an image using said transport;

determining that an image part of said image did not change in a time period; and

generating and transmitting a data block of image enhancement data responsive to said determination.

36. A method of calculating a coefficient change value set for updating image values of a previously transmitted portion of an image without motion estimation, which image is transmitted using a transform-type compression system that quantizes a linearly transformed image, comprising:

comparing transform coefficients that represent said image with at least an approximation of transform coefficients that represent the transmitted image, to generate an indication of a difference between said coefficients; and

calculating an update coefficient set from said indication of a difference.